

HOUSE BILL NO. 255

INTRODUCED BY F. WILMER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT DESIGNATING MARCH 30 AS WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA."

WHEREAS, the United States became involved in a war in the former Republic of South Vietnam to stop the spread of communism to that country; and

WHEREAS, by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 members of the armed forces of the United States were serving in the former South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, more than 58,000 members of the armed forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members were wounded; and

WHEREAS, by March 30, 1973, combat and combat support units had left Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and caused a generation of veterans to be criticized for participation in a war that was the official policy of four presidential administrations in the United States government, a policy that Vietnam veterans themselves could not control; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day would provide an appreciation that Vietnam veterans deserve for their service but did not receive at the time of their homecoming; and

WHEREAS, establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day would also promote awareness of the faithful service of Vietnam veterans, promote awareness of their contributions to the country, and recognize the assistance that veterans of the war in Vietnam are providing to the returning veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in recovering from their wounds, both seen and unseen, and in supporting the reintegration of these new veterans back into civilian life.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Welcome home Vietnam veterans day.** There is established a welcome home Vietnam veterans day for the state of Montana. The welcome home Vietnam veterans day is March 30 of each year and commemorates the day in 1973 when all combat units and combat support units arrived home



1 from the former South Vietnam.

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
4 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
5 Chippewa tribe.

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7 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
8 integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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